

TWO HEARTED RIVER NATURAL RIVER PLAN

LUCE COUNTY

DECEMBER 1973



FISHERIES DIVISION

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Revised March 12, 2002

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE

THE STUDY AREA.....	1
A. Location and General Characteristics of the River, Watershed and Region.....	1
B. Physiography.....	5
C. Stream Characteristics.....	5
D. Structures for Natural Resources Management.....	8
E. Soils.....	8
F. Vegetation	8
G. Climate	9
H. Ownership	9
I. Accessibility	10
EXISTING USES AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES	11
A. Timber Management	11
B. Private Recreation Areas and Seasonal Dwellings	11
C. Public Recreation Areas.....	11
D. Fishing.....	12
E. Wildlife Observation and Hunting.....	12
F. Canoeing and Boating	13
G. Historical Areas.....	13
FUTURE USES AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS.....	15
A. Future Uses.....	15
B. Natural Problems.....	15
NATURAL RIVER PLAN	17
A. Proposed Designation.....	17
B. Natural River District.....	17
C. Water Quality	17
D. Land Development and Land Use.....	17
E. Area Regulations	21
F. Natural Vegetation Strip.....	21
G. Other Development Regulations	21
H. Regulations Pertaining to Publicly Owned Land.....	22
I. Administration.....	22

APPENDIX A—PART 305 – NATURAL RIVERS PA 451 OF 1994	25
APPENDIX B--“ALTERATION OF RIVERS” LAWS	29
APPENDIX C—MODIFIED TIMBER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR STATE OWNED LAND.....	31
APPENDIX D—ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS.....	37

TABLE OF MAPS

Location of Two Hearted River in Luce County.....	3
General Watershed Map.....	19
Proposed Designated Portions.....	19

PREFACE

The Two Hearted River in northern Luce County flows through a “wilderness-like” watershed on its way from its headwaters at Whorl Lake to the mouth at Lake Superior. Approximately 44 percent of the river frontage is state owned with the bulk of the remaining private holdings belonging to Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company. CCI manages its lands for timber products and has kept its lands open to public use. The remaining private lands in individual ownership are mainly used for hunting and fishing camps and are in parcels of 40 acres and larger. There are no year-round residences along the river.

The Two Hearted River has excellent brook trout and steelhead trout fishing and provides countless hours of recreation for seasonal homeowners and tourists. Canoeing, hunting and fishing, and just relaxing in a wilderness atmosphere attract many people to the area. As the demand for quality recreation increases the natural beauty and wilderness characteristics of the area could be destroyed by unregulated land use. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has studied the Two Hearted River and is recommending it be included in the Natural Rivers Program as a Wilderness River, under the authority of Part 305, P.A. 451 of 1994.

This report (1) provides a physical description of the river and surrounding lands; (2) reviews values of the river and factors affecting its future nature and use; and (3) provides a plan for the protection of the river’s natural qualities and to guide its future use. The plan is the result of joint efforts of the Department of Natural Resources and the Luce County Planning Commission and the Luce County Zoning Board.

